

THE VOTE,  
Nov. 16, 1923.  
ONE PENNY.

ONE WEEK TO THE FAIR!

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XXIV. No. 734.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, NOV. 16, 1923

**OBJECT:** To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

### ONE WEEK TO THE FAIR.

**GREEN** CENTRAL HALL,  
WESTMINSTER.

**WHITE**

AND

FRIDAY,  
NOVEMBER 23

**GOLD**

SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 24

**FAIR!**

*Come to the Fair, bring what you can't spare,  
We are all looking forward to meeting you there!*

## OUR ELECTION POLICY.

In view of the imminence of a General Election, the Election Policy of the Women's Freedom League is, briefly, as follows:—

Wherever a suitable woman candidate stands for Parliament, we shall (provided that where we have a Branch in the locality her candidature is approved by that Branch) give her all the support in our power, irrespective of the political Party to which she belongs. Her "suitability" is defined by her willingness to work both inside and outside Parliament for the equality of the sexes.

With regard to all men candidates, we are asking our Branches and members to get their replies to the following questions, and to vote for or against them according to the satisfactoriness or otherwise of the replies received:—

Will you, if elected, urge the Government to introduce legislation, and pass it through all its stages at the earliest possible date, which will secure—

- (1) Equal political voting rights for women and men, and equal eligibility to the Second Chamber?
- (2) Equal pay and equal opportunities as between women (whether married or unmarried) and men in the professions, in civil and Local Government services, and in industries?
- (3) The raising of the age of consent for girls to 18 years, with a similar protection for boys?
- (4) An equal status for married women with married men in regard to the guardianship of children, their equal right with men to retain or choose their nationality, and their separate assessment for Income Tax?
- (5) Will you also do your utmost to secure provision for women as well as for men in any schemes devised by the Government for the relief or training of the unemployed?

## WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

As we go to press, we learn that the following women have been definitely adopted by their respective Political Parties, as Parliamentary candidates for the following constituencies. The majority of these women are standing for re-election, and against these are recorded the number of votes they polled at the last General Election, in 1922.

### Unionist:

THE VISCOUNTESS ASTOR, M.P. (13,924), Plymouth (Sutton).  
MRS. HILTON PHILLIPSON, M.P. (12,000), Berwick.  
DAME HELEN GWYNNE-VAUGHAN (8,066), Camberwell (N).

### Liberal:

MRS. WINTRINGHAM, M.P. (11,609), Louth (Lincs).  
LADY TERRINGTON (11,154), South Bucks.  
MRS. CORBETT ASHBY (5,673), Richmond.  
MRS. MARCUS DIMSDALE, Cambridgeshire.  
MISS URSULA WILLIAMS, Consett, Durham. (Invited to stand.)

### Independent:

MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (7,804), Middlesex: Brentford and Chiswick.

### Labour:

DR. ETHEL BENTHAM (5,900), Islington (E.).  
MISS MARGARET BONDFIELD (14,498), Northampton.  
MISS SUSAN LAWRENCE (6,747), East Ham (N.).  
MISS MARY RICHARDSON (5,342), Middlesex: Acton.  
MISS MINNIE PALLISTER, Bournemouth.  
MRS. M. A. HAMILTON, Chatham.  
THE COUNTESS OF WARWICK, Leamington.  
MRS. AYRTON GOULD (3,353), Lambeth (N.).

## WOMAN WINS CLAIM TO VOTE.

According to the *Morning Post*, Judge Rowlands, at Swansea County Court this week, granted the appeal of Mrs. Catherine Hodgens against the refusal of the Registration Officer to allow her a Parliamentary vote in respect of business premises occupied by her husband in one ward of the borough, she having already been registered as a Parliamentary voter in respect of the house in which she lived with her husband, which is in another ward of the borough. His Honour held that Mrs. Hodgens's husband was entitled to be registered as a voter for the Borough Council in the ward in which he resided, and as a voter for the Guardians' elections for the ward in which his business premises were situated, and the latter made him a Local Government elector within the meaning of the Representation of the People Act, 1918. Therefore his wife was entitled to a Parliamentary vote in the ward in which her husband had the right to vote in the Guardians' elections, and the appeal was allowed.

## CHILD ASSAULT AND VENEREAL DISEASE.

According to *The Times*, an extraordinary general meeting of the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases was held at the Robert Barnes Hall, 1, Wimpole Street, last Thursday. Lord Trevethin, President of the Council, was in the Chair.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Commandant Allen moved: "That the National Council views with concern the extent of the crime of child assault. It is aware that many of these assaults lead to the communication of venereal diseases to young girls. They consider that public opinion should be aroused to the evil, and that the existing law should be stringently administered. They are of opinion that financial penalties do not act as a sufficient deterrent, and that severe penalties should be imposed." This was carried unanimously. The Council confirmed the recommendation of the Executive Committee that their representatives on the joint Conference of the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, and the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease, should form a deputation to urge the Minister of Health to give effect to the recommendation of the Trevethin Report, that duly qualified chemists should be permitted to sell materials for self-disinfection, accompanied by instructions, providing no commercial advertising were permitted.

## THE VOTE STALL.

### PLEASE HELP!

There are only a few days left now before the Fair. Will every Reader, who has not already done so, endeavour to send a contribution to THE VOTE Stall in order that it may be a big success?

Donations or Saleable Articles of every description will be welcomed.

Kindly address all gifts to: THE VOTE Secretary, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Women Mayors.

Six women Mayors were elected on November 9th, including the first woman Lord Mayor, Miss Ethel Mary Colman, of Carrow Abbey, Norwich, eldest surviving daughter of the late Mr. J. J. Colman, at one time M.P. for Norwich. The other women Mayors are Mrs. R. Hill, Mayor of Harwich; Councillor Miss Beatrice Cartwright, Mayor of Brackley, Northampton (re-elected); Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, Mayor of Ramsgate; Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Mayor of Honiton (re-elected for the fourth successive year); and Mrs. C. Buchanan Alderton, Mayor of Colchester. There is also one woman Deputy Mayor, Councillor Annie Lile, of Hastings.

### Woman as Minister's Assistant.

Miss Dorothy F. Wilson was recently inducted as Minister's Assistant at Crosby Congregational Church. Miss Wilson, who is the daughter of Mr. Courthope Wilson, K.C., formerly of the Liverpool Bar, was previously associated with the work of Dr. Ivor J. Robertson, of Regent Square Church, London, and ex-Moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly.

### Englishwoman Wins Prize Fellowship

A Prize Fellowship of 1,000 Swedish kroner, offered for research in science by the Swedish Federation of University Women, has been awarded to an Englishwoman, Mrs. Muriel Wheldale Onslow, M.A., whose work on the biochemistry of plants is well known. The Fellowship was open to the University women of 18 countries.

### Woman Town Chamberlain.

The vacant post of Town Chamberlain in the burgh of Fort William has been filled by the appointment of Miss A. C. MacGregor. She was for some years an assistant in the Town Chamberlain's office, had acted as interim Chamberlain for six months, and fulfilled the duties so well that, although there were many men applicants, the Town Council unanimously appointed her to the post.

### Actress's Honorary Degree.

Last week Manchester University conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on Miss Sybil Thorndike, in recognition of "a devotion to her profession which has had a profound influence upon national art." Miss Ellen Terry is the only other woman member of the theatrical profession to receive this honorary degree.

### Jugoslavian Women's Congress.

A Congress of all the feminist societies in Jugoslavia has been held at Ljubljana, at which it was decided that all these societies should join to form an Alliance for Woman Suffrage in Jugoslavia. Delegates from the Croatian and Slovenian Roman Catholic Federations also participated in the Congress, and will take part in the work of the feminist Alliance.

### Women's Home of Service, Madras.

During its first month of working, the Baby Welcome Centre attached to the Women's Home of Service registered 1,000 attendances of children, and a large number of women. Over 300 individual cases were treated with simple medicines. This experience shows how much needed such centres are in the suburbs and various towns of India.

### "Our Mary Ellen" Again!

Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith, the first British woman Cabinet Minister, who visited this country last summer, has, since her return to the British Columbia Legislature, seconded an address in reply to a speech from the Throne. She is the first woman in any British Legislative Assembly to be given such an honour.

### Woman Governing Director.

Steel and Company, Ltd., have been registered as a private company, with a capital of £15,000 in £1 shares, to take over the business of builders' merchants, iron founders, and heating engineers carried on by Mrs. Katherine Harriette Steel, at Paley Street and Trimdon Street, Sunderland, as "Steel and Company." Mrs. K. H. Steel has been appointed sole governing director.

### American Child Labour.

The League for Women Voters is about to conduct personal campaigns throughout the United States, to secure the individual allegiance of each Member of Congress for an amendment to the Constitution which will prohibit child labour under the age of 18.

### American Woman's Appointment.

Miss Bell Sherwin has been appointed as Director-at-large of the Cleveland Association for Criminal Justice. Miss Sherwin is First Vice-President of the National League of Women Voters, and heads the League's work for education in citizenship.

### Chinese Women's Progress.

The Suffrage Movement in China is sweeping all over the country, and to-day there are Suffrage Associations in practically every Province. Canton and Hunan have both given suffrage to women. The Shanghai Suffrage Association was organised last year, and is now issuing a monthly Chinese suffrage paper, entitled *The Woman Citizen*.

### Women Barristers at Work.

Women barristers made an appearance at Cumberland Assizes recently. One was Miss Hesling, of Manchester, who joined the Northern Circuit at the Summer Assize, and the other was Miss C. Sorabji, of Lincoln's Inn. Miss C. M. Young, a woman barrister holding her first brief, successfully conducted a case in the Divorce Court recently, by means of which she obtained for her client a decree nisi and £100 damages.

### A Perilous Journey.

Mrs. Ida Francis, widow of a Rand pioneer, has just completed a journey of 400 miles across the waterless Kalahari Desert. She set out in the middle of July with 600 cattle, and underwent the most severe hardships, but eventually reached her son's farm at Blikfontein.

### Belgian Woman Registrar.

For the first time in the history of Belgium, a woman registrar performed the civil marriage ceremony, at Chenee, near Liège. This was Madame Magis, a member of the City Council, who performed this office in the absence of the Mayor, as next in order of position in the election returns.

### Domestic Service in Switzerland.

A Bill has been drafted in Switzerland to make domestic training compulsory amongst all classes of girlhood under twenty years of age. This compulsory training will not begin until the girl has completed her elementary education, after which she must devote a year to domestic subjects.

### Woman Pioneer Worker.

Mrs. Alfred Booth, whose death is reported at the age of 84, was one of the earliest Presidents of the National Union of Women Workers, now the National Council of Women, which she helped to found in conjunction with Mrs. Creighton and others.

### Champion English Girl Knitter.

England has produced the best knitter in the competition for the United Kingdom and Irish Free State, organised by Messrs. Weldon's. Miss Gladys Hearle, of Knowle, Bristol, won a handsome silver Challenge Cup and a cheque for £250.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.  
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16th, 1923.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,  
printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

### EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

## HUSBAND, WIFE, AND THE LAW.

The anomalous position in regard to the law of coercion of a wife was referred to at the Mansion House last week. A City company director had shot himself on the day on which he and his wife were summoned to answer the charge of issuing a false balance-sheet, and the case against the wife had been postponed. When it opened, the other day, Sir Richard Muir, for the prosecution, asked permission to withdraw the charge. According to the *Morning Post*, Sir Richard said that he had considered whether, on account of the difficulties that had arisen owing to the death of the male defendant, his clients could continue the prosecution. The bulk of the evidence would have been acts done by the male defendant not in the presence of the female defendant, and therefore would not be evidence against her, unless done in pursuance of a common purpose. He very much doubted whether the doctrine of acts done in pursuance of a common purpose applied as between husband and wife. Husband and wife were one, and a person could not be agent for himself or herself. Equally, the husband and wife, upon the same doctrine, could not be charged with conspiracy. The evidence of acts done by the wife in the presence of the husband would not be sufficient to convict her, because of the doctrine of marital coercion, which was still part of our law. Therefore, evidence against the woman would be limited to acts done by her not in the presence of her husband, and they formed so small a portion of the body of evidence in the case that in his judgment his clients were not bound either by a duty of law or of good citizenship to continue the prosecution, and they had instructed him to ask leave to withdraw from the prosecution. Alderman Sir Vansittart Bowater said that the law would perhaps one day be altered in regard to the coercion of a wife. Women now had separate rights, and were really in the same position as men. There was no doubt, as the law stood, Sir Richard was taking the right course. We think with Sir Vansittart Bowater, that this particular law will one day be altered; but we emphatically do not agree with him that women are "really in the same position as men." The economic position of married women is not the same as that of their husbands. Every effort is apparently made to prevent women, who have a husband to support them, from earning a separate income, although a married woman has no legal claim to any portion of her husband's income, salary, or wages, and he is not compelled to do more in the way of "supporting" her than to keep her off the rates, and provide her with medicine. Nor are women "really in the same position as men" in regard to their children. If the mother is unmarried, she is their sole guardian, and entirely responsible for their upbringing; but if she is married, the father alone has the right to say how and where the children shall be educated. There are other ways, too, in which the legal position of women is not "really the same as that of men," and our own view is that these should all be removed before the alteration in the law of coercion of a wife, as they affect so many more women and inflict so much more injustice.

## LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL, WOMEN TEACHERS AND CHILDREN.

More muddle is the result of the decision of the London County Council that women teachers must resign on marriage unless they were in permanent service on March 6th last. There are certain exceptions to this rule, and at the Education Committee last week, presided over by Mrs. Wilton Phipps, it was recommended by the General Purposes Sub-Committee that teachers employed as sessional or part-time teachers, "supply" teachers, and infants' assistants should be included in the exceptions. One member objected because he could see no difference between permanent and supply teachers, and, as an amendment, moved that the latter class be not exempted. It was pointed out by Mr. W. J. Pincombe that on several occasions the Committee had had great difficulty in obtaining teachers, and it would be deplorable if supply teachers, because of marriage, should be turned out of the service. Sir Harry Stephen, Chairman of the Sub-Committee, said he could not accept the amendment. He could not agree that a woman who was married and took to teaching was not a better teacher than a girl fresh from college. An amendment by Mr. Pincombe that married teachers should be eligible for employment or re-employment in the Council's service, was lost, and the Sub-Committee's proposals were agreed to.

Although the London County Council is continuing to staff its infants' schools with "motherly," untrained women of 18, out of the 369 students who left the Council's training colleges last summer, 137 have failed to obtain teaching posts. Similar failure is reported of 116 out of the 238 students who left the London Day Training College this year. This, in our view, does not spell "economy," but it is an intolerable waste of the country's resources.

Replying to a question put by Mr. J. D. Gilbert, M.P., at a meeting of the Education Committee last week, Mrs. Wilton Phipps said that about 65,000 children left elementary schools in London during the year in four batches at the end of four terms. No complaints had been received from the Ministry of Labour as to the difficulty of dealing with so many children at one time, but the difficulty was much accentuated at those times when unemployment was prevalent, and she promised to ask the Education and Unemployment Committees to see if any recommendation could be made on the subject. We ourselves most strongly urge that all boys and girls should from henceforth be kept at school until they are fifteen or sixteen years of age, with maintenance grant when this is necessary, in order to prevent the unfair competition of these children in the labour market with the one and a quarter million men and women now unemployed.

An Emergency Report was presented to the Council last week by the General Purposes Sub-Committee on the treatment and care of physically defective children. It stated that the London County Council had five schools for tuberculous children, with accommodation for 365, but it was estimated that there were 2,000 children needing accommodation. The Metropolitan Asylums Board was seeking approval for the establishment of centres for the clinical after-care of child patients discharged from the Board's institutions, and the question of after-treatment of cases of deformity of tuberculous origin was being investigated. This Report was deferred for further consideration.

## WOMEN AND THE GENERAL ELECTION.

No one but the Party managers can view with favour the Government's decision to hold a General Election early in December. If the new proposals of Protection or Tariff Reform are of such far-reaching importance, women think that the electors of this country should be given time and data for consideration before they are asked to give their decision in this matter. If they are not of such high importance, women want to know why the country should be plunged into the turmoil of a second General Election within twelve months, when there is so much distressful unemployment with which the Government promised to cope?

## THE FUTURE OF DOMESTIC SERVICE.

A discussion meeting, in connection with the recently issued Report by the Women's Committee set up by the Labour Ministry to investigate the conditions of Domestic Service, was held by the Women's Freedom League at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, on Thursday of last week.

Miss Morton, M.B.E., who presided, said though there were, no doubt, some debatable things in the Report, it was characterised throughout by a spirit of great moderation. She personally was particularly interested in the scheme suggested in the Report for giving servants pensions, on a contributory basis, on reaching the age of 55. She also suggested that the domestic problem would be solved more readily if boys and men were taught to take their share of work in the home. At present the boy out of school was a free agent, but the girl out of school had all sorts of home duties thrust upon her.

Viscountess Rhondda, who opened the discussion, proposed the following Resolution:—

"That, following the remarks made in the Report of the Committee appointed by the Ministry of Labour to inquire into the present conditions as to the supply of female domestic servants, this meeting desires to urge the Government to give an immediate grant to the Central Committee for Women's Training and Employment, to enable this Committee to continue its fine work until trade conditions have become more normal."

Lady Rhondda stressed the extraordinarily interesting nature of the Report, because it dealt with a subject which was intimately bound up with the comfort and happiness of a large section of the population, and praised the moderation and impartiality with which it had been drawn up. The Committee had investigated

all possible evidence in much detail, and with great patience; and, although the subject was an exceedingly controversial one, had arrived at absolutely unanimous conclusions. People to-day were suffering in health and general lack of comfort from their failure to realise that housework was in the nature of a skilled trade.

The theory that every woman was automatically good at housework had done a great deal of harm, and she was glad to see this point of view refuted in the Report. She feared that the proposal to give instruction in Domestic Service in secondary schools would place girls at a disadvantage in the competition for scholarships, by deducting valuable half-hours from their general education, but she could see no reason why boys should not be equally instructed in Domestic Service. In German schools, the time given to arithmetic in boys' classes was devoted to teaching sewing to the girls, and she did not want to see that copied in England. She strongly approved of the allusions in the Report to the relationship between mistress and maid. Every mistress should make her maid feel that the place was her home. She also agreed with the suggestion that domestic servants should be given the vote on attaining the statutory age. The impression prevailed amongst a great many people that servants did not want the vote. This, however, was contrary to Lady Rhondda's own experience. She had met with great indignation amongst servants, that they were not allowed to vote because they lived in other people's houses.

Many questions and an animated discussion followed Lady Rhondda's remarks, after which the Resolution, which was seconded by Miss F. A. Underwood, was carried unanimously.

## WOMEN AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

At last week's Women's Demonstration on Unemployment, convened by the Women's Advisory Committee of the Labour Party, over 1,200 women from local Labour Parties, Women's Co-operative Guilds, and Trade Unions applied for tickets, 800 of whom were either unemployed themselves, or the wives of unemployed men.

A Resolution, calling upon the Government to use all the resources of the nation to provide schemes of useful work for unemployed workers, and demanding additional grants to the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment, was proposed from the Chair by Mrs. Ada Salter, Mayor of Bermondsey, supported by Miss Margaret Bondfield, Mr. Ammon, M.P., and Dr. Marion Phillips, and carried unanimously.

Miss Bondfield explained that the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment, founded by the late Mary MacArthur in the early days of the war, to cope with the unemployment amongst women which was then so prevalent, had been ever since the one and only channel of relief for unemployed women in this country. During these years the Committee had exercised the utmost economy, and spent only £600,000 on its various Home Crafts, Home Makers, Clerical, and Outfit schemes. Of this sum the Government had only contributed £100,000, although in the case of unemployed men some 50 millions had recently been voted. There were 275,000 unemployed women recorded to-day on the live registers of the Labour Exchanges, and a still larger number who had not signed. Women

were also being vitally affected by men's unemployment. The present problem amongst unemployed men had never been so serious, owing to the large numbers of women who had entered the industrial world since the war.

Mr. C. G. Ammon, M.P., L.C.C., expressed concern at the thousands of boys and girls, in the present day, who had left school, and were unable to find work. Every year 600,000 young people of both sexes left the elementary schools. In London alone there were 40,000 boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 18 who could not find employment, or else spent their time in blind-alley occupations, and for whom no provision was being made. Only 10 per cent. of these came under the Insurance Act. They were rapidly forgetting their education, and being manufactured into a vast army of young unemployables. The Day Continuation Schools which had been started to cope with this problem were now practically in abeyance, and Lady Astor's recent proposal at the Unionist Conference at Plymouth, to raise the school-leaving age from 14 to 16, had been turned down by the Conservative Party.

Dr. Marion Phillips stressed the fact that the evil effects of unemployment were being felt abroad, as well as at home. The whole world to-day was being confronted with the same acute problems of distress and unemployment. A new spirit in foreign affairs was urgently needed, so that our markets might be opened again everywhere, and trade revived. Brotherhood amongst the nations was the imperative need of the day.



FRIDAY,  
NOV. 16,  
1923.

# THE VOTE

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PENNY  
WEEKLY.

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## NOTICES.

**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, November 18th. 3.30. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Deamer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "Christ Triumphant: V. The State and the Offender."

## MISCELLANEOUS.

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## REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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**C**HRISTMAS in Lakeland.—Mild and beautiful. Rambling, climbing, fox-hunting on foot.—Victoria Family Hotel, Buttermere, £3 3s. weekly; £10 monthly. Book early. Cheerful party expected. (No licence).

**L**ITERARY Society having good first floor front room in square in Bloomsbury, wishes to sub-let for part time. Available daily—morning, possibly some afternoons. Apply A. B. C., 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

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## Membership Application Form.

To be returned to The Secretary, 144, High Holborn.

Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.  
Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.